

FALCON

NEWS MAGAZINE



President Slepitza
ponders new athletic
recruitment strategy Pg. 8

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AVILA UNIVERSITY VOLUME XV ISSUE 2

In this issue



The Talon is starting this semester the same way it did last semester by trying to get into the head of our new president. This time we are focusing on the new recruiting strategies that are being put into place. It seems that our new president is making big changes to try to establish an identity at Avila. The question we have to ask is do we like these changes and are they helping Avila? Only time will tell.

This issue also focuses on Black History month and how important it is to recognize the people that fought for civil rights. The contributions they have made and continue to make affects us all and we should look to them for inspiration. This is especially clear after Barack Obama and Hilary Rodham Clinton announced their plans to run for President.

For the first time in history there is a real chance that the president of the United States might not be a white rich male.

This semester the Talon will continue to express student thoughts and ideas while at the same time challenge its readers to take a second look at some issues and re-examine their own way of thinking.

Announcements

> Students who are graduating in 2007 and would be interested in a Advertising Sales Career with The Kansas City Star apply on-line @ www.careerday.kcstar.com

> Announcing the "LEE SUMMIT BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB SCHOLARSHIP" Applications are in the Financial Aid Office in Blasco Hall 2nd Floor. A woman must be the head of the household with financial responsibility for her dependents. Paper applications must be postmarked by 3/25/07.



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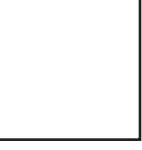
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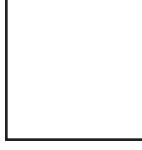
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Dani's Box

Corrections

In the last issue the new Jeanne Collins Thompson Residence Hall was incorrectly referenced and mentioned that the new hall would not include microwaves and refrigerators. See story on page 6 for progress and updates.

Also, a letter to the editor from Deanna Sporleder was credited to the original author of the commentary "Sex Offenders on Rise" commentary.

Editorial Policy

The Talon News Magazine is produced by the students of Avila University. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the TALON NEWS staff, the Trustees, administration, faculty, or staff of the University.

The Talon News Magazine encourages letters to the editor. These may be submitted electronically or in writing and should include the writer's name, address, and telephone numbers for verification purposes. Letters can be mailed to the TALON News Magazine Editor, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. 64145. The Talon reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, clarity, or inappropriate language. Copies of the Talon News Network Operational Guidelines may be requested by writing to the above referenced address.

Thank You.

Avila Concept & Design Makes Mark

By Jonathan Green

The Avila Concept, Design, and Production (ACDP) serves many purposes to the school. Their main purpose is to promote and document events that take place at Avila. According to the ACDP constitution the main goals are to promote a better understanding of advertising, encourage professionalism in advertising, and to promote the free exchange of ideas. The ACDP is here to promote and advertise events at Avila. According to ACDP advisor Ben Meade, "we are not a media services." Professor Meade went on to say, that services are not provided directly to students or individuals. Some of the events that the ACDP has covered in the past are, filming Avila's Presidential Inauguration for President Slepitzka, and sponsored movie nights on campus. The ACDP receives funding from the school paid by the student activity fee. Currently ACDP is using the funding to make a promotional video for the theater production, Dead Man Walking, and also making video sequences that will be played within the production. They also plan on hosting two concerts in the upcoming months one including The Heartly Family, a gospel group, who will perform in Foyle Hall on April 16.

Democrats Invite all to Party

By Brooke McNally

Avila University's College Democrats (AUCD) provides a forum for students to get involved and support political issues they feel strongly about. During mid-term elections in fall 2006, local Democratic committees contacted the organization to request help from students to Get Out the Vote by canvassing the area with literature. They also requested students interested in working the polls to help get the Democratic message out on mid-term Election Day on Nov. 7, 2006. This semester there will be additional opportunities for students to get involved. Traditional and non-traditional students are welcome. Presently there are ten students actively participating.

Currently, the AUCD is seeking a student leader to coordinate group meetings and work with local and regional Democratic groups to arrange opportunities for Avila students to get involved. The AUCD does not have an allocated budget, but if members organize an event that needs funding, they work with the group's faculty advisor to request approval for funding from the University.

According to a news release on Nov. 8, 2006 from Young Voters Strategies (a project of The Graduate School of Political Management at The George Washington University), "young people voted in the largest numbers for a mid-term election in the last 20 years and overwhelmingly cast their votes for the Democratic agenda of change. On Tuesday, [Nov. 7, 2006], 10 million young voters helped Democrats take back the House and Senate." The increased turnout is partly attributed to the efforts of the College Democrats of America, which has reached out to students on over 1,200 college and university campuses in all 50 states.

The Democratically-controlled House of Representatives has passed seven bills in their first 100 hours of meeting in 2007 that are awaiting Senate approval. Two of those bills have a direct impact on college students. Jim Webb, U.S. Senator from Virginia, in his rebuttal speech to the President's State of the Union Address stated, "Today our nation's largest corporate CEOs make more money in a day than the average American worker makes in a year". In January 2007, House Democrats passed a bill to increase the federal minimum wage for the first time in ten years. They have proposed an increase of \$2.10 over two years from \$5.15 to \$7.25 per hour. In addition, House Democrats have passed a bill to cut student loan interest rates in half, over five years, from the current rate of 6.8% to 3.4%, potentially saving students up to \$4,000 over the 10-year life of a Stafford loan.

If you would like to be a student leader or member of the Avila University College Democrats organization or you have an idea for an event you would like to help arrange, contact faculty advisor Dr. Mary Hynes at: 816-501-3684.



IN THE ZONE

AVILA UNIVERSITY STEER DINNER & AUCTION

MARCH 24, 2007

Sheraton Overland Park Hotel at the
Convention Center
March 24, 2007
6:30 p.m. until midnight.

For more information about the 31st Annual Steer Dinner, please contact: Carrie D. Mayle, Executive Director of Development
Phone: 816-501-2450 • Fax: 816-501-2460
E-mail: carrie.mayle@avila.edu

Announcing

The "North Central Local Business and Professional Women" \$500 scholarship.

Apply: By April 1, 2007 for the academic year 2007-2008.

Where: Financial Aid office in Blasco Hall on the second floor for paper applications

Who: Undergraduate and graduate women are eligible, no other restrictions.

Announcing

HARRY TRUMAN LECTURE SERIES

Presents...

When: February 28, 2007
Where: Thornhill Art Gallery
Contact: Marci Aylward
PH: 816-501-2243

dead man walking

Civil Rights Leaders Profiled

By: Catlin Stephenson

Thurgood Marshall's Legacy Still Resonates

Thurgood Marshall was a courageous civil rights lawyer during a period when racial segregation was the law of the land. At a time when a large portion of American society refused to extend equality to black people, Marshall astutely realized that one of the best ways to bring about change was through the legal system. Between 1938 and 1961, he presented more than 30 civil rights cases before the Supreme Court. He won 29 of them. His most important case was Brown vs. Board of Education. Marshall went on to become the first African-American Supreme Court Justice in American history.



The Little Rock Nine Remembered

The Little Rock Nine, as they later came to be called, were the first black teenagers to attend all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. These young African-American students challenged segregation in the deep South and won. Although Brown v. Board of Education outlawed segregation in schools, many racist school systems defied the law by intimidating and threatening black students. But the Little Rock Nine were determined to attend the school and receive the same education offered to white students.

Things quickly got out of hand. The governor of Arkansas ordered the state's National Guard to block the black students from entering the school. This caused President Eisenhower to send in federal troops to protect the students. Following this the Little Rock Nine were taunted, insulted and threatened with death. Through all of this the students refused to give up and many of them graduated from Central High.

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campus

BSU has Big Plans to Celebrate Black History Month

By Seneca Booth



The purpose of Black Student Union of Avila University is to "spread diversity among the campus and fellow students". The Black Student Union is known to stimulate the intellectual, Political, cultural and social growth of all students. Through enriching programs such as general meetings and leadership roles and community service, they seek to educate and the larger community in hopes that awareness will spark action and ignite change in the community. In addition the black student union shall serve as a resource to all students other groups on campus.

For Black History Month, the Black Student Union is taking on the theme; Educating America about Black Issues. Feb. 5th and Feb. 12th there will be a two part movie/ discussion nights dealing with issues prominent in today's society. Both will be held in the Alumni Lounge @ 12:30 p.m. Feb 21st, there will be a Soul Food luncheon with a guest speaker. Last but not least, Black Student Union will hold its 4th Annual Gospel Fest- 4p.m. in the Whitfield Center. Chequila Daniels, president of Black Student Union is inviting everyone to come. Also, watch for upcoming events including their annual Blackout Party during Spring Fling Week. [photo of Kiera Brown, Treasurer and Evelyn white, Secretary]

Campus Ministry

By David Matheny

On Thursday, January 23rd, Avila's Campus Ministry left for Snow Creek, a ski park, in Weston, Missouri after a three-hour retreat. With roughly 60 people and tons of energy they rolled, flew, and tumbled down the slopes of artificial snow with Skis, snowboards, and tubes until 2:30am when the busses left. "We all came back a little sore and tired," said Campus ministry team member, Brittny Reid. "But it was a blast."



Avila's Campus Ministry encourages spiritual growth for all students. They plan such events for students to get more involved with each other and their community. For anyone who is interested taking part in the Campus Ministry, you may visit www.avila.edu/campusministry to get signed up. There are many events to come. Their next get away, is on February 13th at Crown Center, where they will be ice skating for the night.

SHARE YOUR CULTURE



at the

Avila 2007 Ethnic Food & Culture Celebration

What:

The Ethnic Food & Culture Celebration is Avila's celebration of the cultural diversity present in our own community. Members of the community (students, staff, and faculty) volunteer to set up a booth that shares something about another culture. Booths can have food, music, dance, cultural information, games, traditions, holiday celebrations, examples of dress, or any other representation of a particular culture. There is no limit to who may sponsor a booth. YOU can sponsor a booth about your country of origin (including the region of the U.S.A. that you hail from), your family heritage, a place you have traveled, or a culture you have studied.

Who:

Any interested party who would like to share information about their cultural experience.

Why:

To share your knowledge and experience with others in our community. To help us celebrate our own uniqueness.

When:

Thursday, March 1, 2007 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Where:

Dining Room, Upper Level Marian Centre

Some Act Without Conscience or Doubt

By Monica Lang

"One in every 25 ordinary Americans secretly has no conscience and can do anything at all without feeling guilty," according to Martha Stout, Ph.D. Today, about four percent of the population has antisocial personalities. Yes, this means that there are people walking around on Avila's campus with no conscience at all. There are people, who have absolutely no guilt, who have no little voice inside his or her head, who have no feeling of remorse and never will. This jaw dropping statistic exposes the unthinkable. Every nation, culture, and religion has people of this particular bend. Only 20 percent of inmates have sociopathy, which mean the other 80 percent are out here in the real world. So, one may ask, how do I find out more about sociopathy? With whom can I talk more about this growing issue in the United States? How can I educate myself on these types of people, in order to guard my own life? Well, we actually have a student organization on Avila's campus that talks about these psychological theories and ideas. It is a student organization seen as 'applicable and useful in almost all occupational settings'.

So, why not take advantage of this opportunity?

Joining Psi Chi, otherwise known as an honor society for psychology, can create opportunities to volunteer for collaborative learning projects with high school students, help serve dinner to the community members at the Salvation Army, and/or help host a senior citizen prom later in the semester. With a strong teacher-student mentoring program, every student is sure to achieve his or her potential life-long goals. Human behavior concentration, organizational dynamics, and research are several areas that help every student build his or her ethical knowledge. It is through communication, participation, and career development that this student organization glistens.

Dr. Amy Bucher encourages "any student with an interest in psychology to join because it is, without a doubt, the most fascinating subject." Feel free to seek out Dr. Bucher if interested in attending the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, or to follow through with any interest in psychology.



campus

Residence Life to Improve

By Colleen Reagan

"Avila believes that the residence halls are more than just a place to sleep" Tim Bosler stated, "Avila's goal is to create an environment where students can renew themselves, recreate, relate, and live and learn. Life in the residence halls offers a variety of educational, recreational, social, and cultural experiences to the residents". Bosler went on to say that, "It's hard to say you are bored while living in the residence halls because you can just walk outside your room and there will be something going on. You make so many new friends and learn something new about those friends everyday. You are involved with interacting with people from all around the world who think and behave differently. It truly is a fun learning process."

In order to find out what people liked and disliked about the dorms interviews with students to ascertain what students really liked best about living in the residence halls. Nick Ward-Bopp said, "Elizabeth Hoppes and the great residence hall staff." Laura Ten Eyck explained, "Being able to be close to friends and the campus." Rachel Meyer was very direct and shared, "Rolling out of bed five minutes before class and still being possibly a minute early. It's the best!"

"Of course living in the residence halls isn't always as glorious as it may seem" says Ward-Bopp, "The gargling noise in the bathroom. It's very disturbing!" Ten Eyck shared, "I do not like the community bathrooms. They are gross especially when the drains in the shower are full of hair. It makes me want to throw up every time I'm in there." Then there's Meyer who said, "The nasty hair on the wall in the showers. It's like people just pull hair out and makes designs on the wall, gross!!!" It is obvious that students love to live on campus but are a little grossed out by the bathrooms.

But improvements are on the way. Coming this fall is the Jeanne Collins Thompson Hall. This hall will be apartment style featuring three floors each with sixteen, four-bedroom suites. Each suite will include a contemporary kitchen, a living room area and two bathrooms. Tim Bosler said he feels that by providing a more independent living environment that students, specifically juniors and seniors, will be encouraged to stay on campus. Juniors and seniors get first pick and then it goes by who has the most points. You get so many points

every semester you live here on campus and those with more points get first opportunity of getting in. Tim commented on how Avila feels that the best leadership on campus can be found from students who can provide upper-class leadership for all students. He also shared his belief that, by creating this residence hall, Avila will bring more students in to live on campus which will create a more vibrant student population. Having more people on campus will encourage more participation in campus activities, athletic events, and also in our food service program. Not only will more students want to stay on campus, but our campus will look nicer. It's always fun to have a really pretty building.

Not only is Avila building a new residence hall but two floors in Carondelet have already been remodeled. This coming summer the third floor of Carondelet will be fully remodeled and plans are to upgrade rooms and kitchens in Ridgeway to by fall of 2008. Avila does not want to remodel all the rooms because there are some students who enjoy having the center island in their room, Bosler says.

With all these changes being made, Avila University will enjoy a more spirited atmosphere and should experience more support for the athletics, theatre, and other on-campus events.



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Upcoming Events

campus

Monday:

- 2/19 Ping-Pong / Football @ Marian Center 8 pm
- 2/19 Students for Justice Round Table Discussion on Death Penalty @ Whitfield 11:30
- 2/19 & 26 Happy Hour
- 3/5 Salsa @ 6 pm Exotic World Dances Happy Hour
- 3/19 Feast of St. Joseph Feace Pole Eyes Wide Open (CM) Happy Hour
- 3/26 Inside Iraq @ 7 pm (GAP) Happy Hour

Tuesday

- 2/20 Pancake Races & Breakfast @ Marian Center Dining Hall 9 pm (CM)
Practice Interviews @ Career Center
- 2/27 Karaoke Night @ Marian Center Eagle's Nest 7 pm (GAP)
- 3/6 Bingo Night @ Marian Lounge 7 pm (CM)
- 3/20 Eyes Wide Open Band-Raining Jane @ 6 pm (GAP)
- 3/27 Cop Mtg. @ 4 pm
Bingo Night @ Marian Center Lounge 7 pm (CM)

Wednesday

- 2/14 Speed Dating @ 7 pm (GAP)
- 2/21 Ash Wednesday Service @ 4 pm
Soul Food Luncheon and Guess Speaker; The State of Black America @ Marian Dining Centre 11:30 am
- 2/28 Sr. Helen Prejean @ 7 pm
Pool Tourney @ Marian Center Eagle's Nest 9 pm
Deadline for Alumni Award Nominations
- 3/7 Avila Stock @ 4:45 pm (GAP)
- 3/28 Comedian Alexandra McHale @ 6:30 pm (GAP)

Thursday

- 2/22 Love Gears @ 7 pm (GAP)
- 3/1 Ethic Food and Culture Celebration @ Marian Center 11:30 am
- 3/22 Talent Show @ 5 pm (GAP)

Friday

- 3/23 Student Leadership Retreat @ Whitfield Center 1 pm - 5 pm

Saturday & Sunday

- 2/25 Gospel Fest @ Whitfield Centre 4 pm
- 3/4 Dead Man Walking Production @ 2 pm
- 3/24 Steer Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Don't Miss !!!
"Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change"

Thursday, February 15th at 8:00 p.m.
KCPT, Channel 19



Experience the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet participation in the 1965 voting-rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama during the civil-rights movement. (photo courtesy of AP)

KCUR Arts Watch features Avila



feature

Establishing an Identity Through Sports

By Kayle Walker

Establishing an identity can be a difficult task for any University, but reinforcing their identity can be even more challenging. One purpose of Avila is to "Pursue academic excellence by providing an educational experience rooted in the Catholic tradition..." Another purpose of Avila is "Serve a community of learners - primarily from the Midwest - with diverse backgrounds and needs by providing a variety of educational formats." These two key purposes, amongst others, are stated within Avila's mission.

Words that pop out are 'Catholic tradition' and the 'Midwest.' Two things that help establish Avila's identity. The Admissions department at Avila and Avila's President, Dr. Ronald Slepitzka, has developed a new recruiting strategy to help Avila become a distinct University. The strategy is not only going to be used in recruiting students for academics, but also for athletics.

Dr. Slepitzka is encouraging athletic coaches to recruit kids that are first year students, from the Midwest and have a Catholic background. At a glance, this may seem that Avila is limiting who can attend the University, but the strategy shows a well thought-out reasoning behind it.

Recruiting first year students will help the student 'buy' into the program, and has a better chance of staying at Avila for all four years. Also, a student transferring from a different University may not have been taught the same curriculum Avila teaches, making it difficult to adjust.

"First year students avoid the big leap that transfer students encounter," Dr. Slepitzka said. "They also develop good study habits early that help them succeed here."

Not only is Avila looking to recruit first year students, but also wants to students with good test scores and good GPAs. Starting fresh with good students gives Avila an opportunity to prepare them for a successful future.

Why Avila is deciding to recruit from the Midwest may be slightly more complicated. What is the definition of the Midwest? At first, the University defined the Midwest as any state touching Missouri. This would have definitely put limits on who would be recruited to Avila, so it was decided that the Midwest was a much broader region that consisted of about fourteen states.

Recruiting kids from the Midwest also means that they are more than likely close to home, which may make the adjustment easier. Students have the opportunity to visit home more often and feel more comfortable fitting into the community.

"Students coming from farther distances, such as St. Louis, are also more likely to bring friends to the University," said Dr. Slepitzka.

Staying in the Midwest is an issue of convenience, even in a way that athletics can easily utilize it. When coaches schedule non-conference games they can choose to play them in areas where Avila can possibly recruit students.

"It's a way to get the word out," said Dr. Slepitzka.

(Continued on Page 17)



Quick Stats

- ☒ **Avila Enrollment: 1683 Students**
- ☒ **26% Catholic**
- ☒ **7% Out of State (U.S. Only)
Come from 22 different States
besides Kansas or Missouri**
- 66% Missouri**
- 27% Kansas**

TALON

NEWS MAGAZINE



*Intelligence plus character —
that is the goal of true
education.*

Quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Academic
Scholars*

AVILA UNIVERSITY

VOLUME XV

ISSUE 4

from the colloquium..2006

Senior Capstones should Challenge



**Stephen C. Roberds, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Political Science**

My goals for the senior capstone course are to get political science seniors to develop, carry out, and present actual research on important questions. In the process they will learn the research process, familiarize themselves with the literature, and learn how to summarize, write-up, and orally present their findings. I do not unleash students to go do research and come back in three months. Rather, we meet once a week and share ideas, suggestions, problems, and so on. I have students turn in rough drafts of every section of their papers. I ask for ongoing literature reviews. Students are asked to evaluate their peers' research, methodology, and so on. In the end, I want students to have a much better understanding and appreciation of the process of doing research. I have a particular bias, and that is for quantitative research. Increasingly, quantitative research is becoming crucial for anyone in political science or law. If a student has a solid plan on an important question that involves qualitative research, I will approve it. But generally speaking, I want data gathering. I also stress that research must be on important, not interesting, questions. There are many questions in life that may be "interesting," but one must be able to show how the research would be important in advancing our knowledge of some particular political phenomenon.

Communication Theory Forces Thinking Beyond Comfort Zones

**Benjamin Meade, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Film & Digital Media
School of Visual & Communication Arts**

In communication theory we have a multiple agenda. First of, we examine the history behind television, radio and print from a standpoint of epistemology, that is what is the foundation of knowledge, who controls knowledge and how it is delivered and consumed. We study this through various theorists like Chomsky, Rushkoff, Zinn, McLuhan, etc who are all involved with who controls what and what the implications are for culture. Most students have to really overcome a "comfort zone" in order to make any progress.

Students then have to involve such theories in a research paper that is grammatically perfect, and present the research in a public forum. This course engages students directly in empirical research as a means of exploration and examination.

It's a tough class and every year we lose several students.

*** Full versions of student's works will be presented on the Talon Web Site *****



Race, Sex, and Politics Bias Cable News

(Excerpts from Senior Thesis)

By Freddy Puckett

One could say that biases in the cable news environment occur because the news shows actually reflect the dynamics of the political arena. When combining the House of Representatives and the senate about fourteen percent are minorities, even by that measurement minorities are underrepresented in these shows. About sixteen percent of both houses of legislature combined are represented by females which by this method of analysis would mean that The Situation Room by having thirty one percent of its representation composed with females, they are actually over representing women. This method of analyzing media bias seems to miss the point.

The under representation of women and minorities in the media could be directly related to their under representation in government. If something becomes a fact to the audience once it has been repeated enough the constant repetition of seeing white males being

portrayed in government could cause a belief that white males are all that belong in the world of politics. Also the lack of women and minorities in these programs displays the difficulty that exists for the average American to receive information about women and minorities issues. The evidence looking at political slants is less revealing.

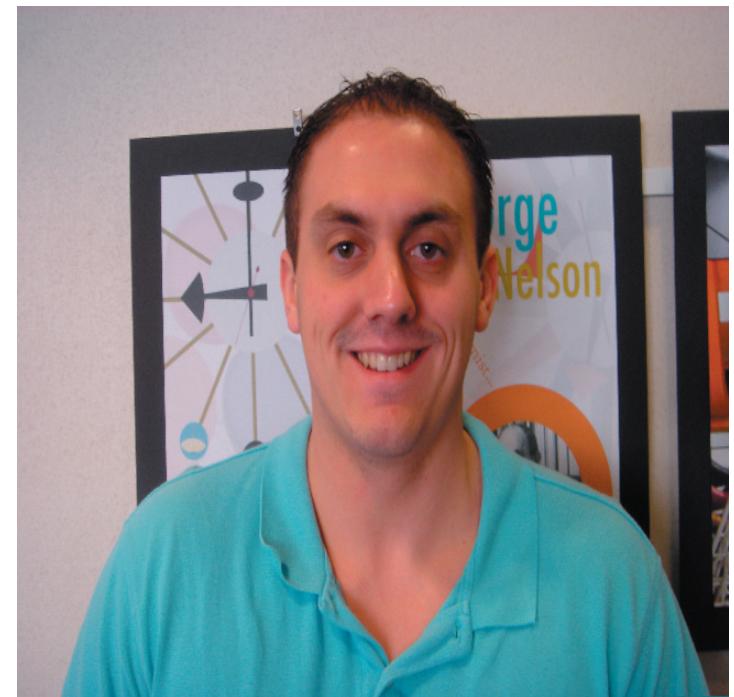
While my research does show that there are some slight political biases in the three programs selected they are not as significant as the women and minority biases. The fact that the research did not depict a stronger bias does not however mean that it does not exist. This particular content analysis failed to measure whether or not certain people were interviewed in a more hostile manner or an approving manner.

A good example of this would be when Bill O'Reilly of The O'Reilly Factor interviewed both President George W. Bush a Republican and Congressman Charlie Rangel a Democrat on the same show. During O'Reilly's interview with President Bush, O'Reilly had a calm and easy going demeanor allowing the president to give his views in a very in combative form. When interviewing Rangel, O'Reilly was much more hostile interrupting Rangel on several occasions and even resorting to finger pointing.

In the eyes of the guest list the undertaking would be considered completely neutral since one conservative republican and one liberal democrat were represented on the show even though a much more favorable outlook was given to the conservative republican. So as a reference for any future content analysis it would be important to label whether or not a favorable or negative outlook was given to the person, not just that the person was present.

In conclusion media bias is an important subject that needs to be studied further by political scientists. My research implies that maybe a lack of representation among women and minorities could be directly related by their representation in the media. Furthermore it shows that there is a preference given to political ideals on all three cable news shows and it is important that the audience knows and recognizes that. Research on bias in the media is important because news outlets are the sources that citizens depend on for information and the over or under representation of certain parts of society can be influential in shaping the opinions of the audience that these shows serve and they simply do not provide us with a completely balanced view of race, sex, and politics.

Freddy Puckett is a Senior and is majoring in Political Science. Visit the talon-online to read Mr. Puckett's full and complete paper. Your comments and reactions are welcomed at www.talon-online.com.



Sex and the House

(Excerpts from Senior Thesis)

By Caitlin Stephenson



When the gender gap was widely recognized in the 1980s, new attention and support was brought to the women's movement. Today a significant amount of research has been undertaken to determine why a gender gap exists. The focus of this inquiry is to examine the 2006 congressional elections and use the results to help determine why more men are elected to office, and what has caused this gender gap in American politics.

This is an important question because women make up half of the United States population and yet are consistently underrepresented—not only in numbers but also in political positions. Gender influences political attitudes and policy preferences, and studies have shown that women prefer policy issues that deal with the family and home. Men and women often have different policy preferences because they have been socialized in different ways and have different gender roles influencing them. The result is that issues women care about are being largely ignored in lieu of issues seen as appealing to men. "Women's issues" include education, domestic abuse, welfare, and childcare, yet when these issues are ignored, everyone, male and female alike, is affected.

In addition to the problems mentioned earlier, examining why there are not more women in elected positions can help determine how things need to be changed. This is important in ensuring that women continue to run for office and learn how to run more successful campaigns. In order to close the gender gap, we must learn why it exists in the first place.

For many women the world of politics can be intimidating because it has traditionally been seen as a man's world. Women are more likely to vote and be politically active when there is group identification. When women can relate to who they are voting for or the issues at stake, they are more likely to get involved. This is one reason why it is important for women to be represented in office by other women.

My Research findings

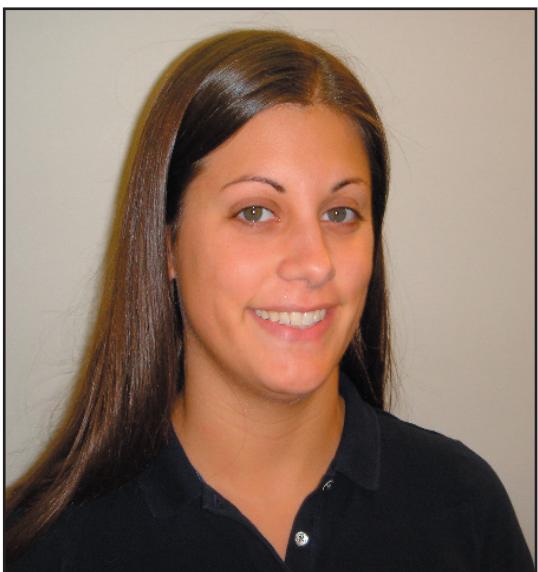
Many of the research findings were surprising, but they were consistent with Jacobson's theory which supports that incumbents have considerable advantages over challengers which makes incumbency the single most important factor in congressional elections. Because women were able to raise a large amount of money, they were able to be more competitive in House races. The fact that women chose to run in more competitive races also shows that women are running more strategic campaigns. This not only gives women more hope

for future elections, but it also signals a change in how women view their role in politics. Female incumbents are reelected at the same rate as male incumbents, which is also consistent with Jacobson's theory regarding incumbency advantage. The fact that female incumbents raised more money than male incumbents

Examining Print Advertisements and Women

(Excerpts from Communication Theory Paper)

By Rachel VanMeerhaeghe



The popular representation of women in print advertisements from a variety of magazines, including Elle, Cosmopolitan, Glamour, Lucky, and Vogue has an affect on women. Over the years, models have continued to decrease in dress size. The average American woman stands five feet four inches tall and weighs 142 pounds; in contrast the average model stands five feet nine inches tall and weighs 110 pounds (HealthyWomen.org). As the dress sizes of models decrease, the number of women with eating disorders rises and retail companies continue to distort their dress sizes allowing the print media power to determine what a woman should look like, what she should buy, and how she should act. As Douglas Rushkoff examines in the documentary film "Merchants of Cool," the media makes every attempt to find what is cool and inject it into television programs, music, and magazines, where it is absorbed by its target audience.

Print advertisements display women in a popular representation that is not equivalent to the average female form in the United States. These models are thinner and taller than the average woman and continue to become thinner. The ideal female form has gradually changed throughout the years. Companies present new body ideals as the way to look, continuing on its way into the mind of the consumer. Women see models that appear a certain way and have convinced themselves that they have to look exactly like them. As people continue to change, this new fad becomes the rule, rather than the exception.

Print advertisements portray women in an idealized manner, depicting thin women as the ideal female form. There are many consequences that young women experience due to "idealized" representations of women in magazine ads such as dissatisfaction of body image, eating disorders, and depression. The media, particularly television and magazines, has been criticized in promoting unrealistic representations of women between the ages of 18-23. While the media presents different shapes of women, overweight women are underrepresented and depicted in a negative manner and thin women are over represented and depicted in a positive. Research suggests evidence that these depictions influence beliefs about the appropriate role of women, influence standards of attractiveness, lower self-esteem, and encourage eating disorders.

Approximately seven million women a year in the United States experience eating disorders (HealthyWomen.org). The number of reported eating disorders continues to rise annually yet the media continues to promote thin behavior. The prevalence of eating disorders has followed the pattern of the media ideal fashion form over the years; the slimmer the models, the higher the prevalence of eating disorders. Periods during which women in the United States media were thinnest coincide with periods in which eating disorders occurred most. These and similar findings have led people to believe that the media plays an important role in the occurrence of eating disorders. The media has been blamed for the unrealistic representations seen by young women who strive to be like models. Highly publicized occurrences such as Princess Diana, Nichole Richie, and Lindsay Lohan have sparked concern towards eating disorders. As concerns escalate about these stars' eating habits, they are concerns of worry, unlike star Kirstie Alley, who became overweight and ridiculed for her overweight behavior.

The portrayal of women in advertisements is not realistic; small hips, a slender waist, and a medium size bust make the media's ideal form. This constant exposure of the media telling women what they should look like has not only impacted women but retail clothing stores have started to take advantage of this social expectation.

Idealized images in advertising raise standards for comparative attractiveness and lower women's satisfaction with their own attractiveness. Media affect on women continues to grow as the number of advertisements viewed by an individual daily keeps rising. Studies show that young women who view television and read magazines are driven to unhealthy eating habits and a desire to look like a model. Other studies show that body satisfaction is a factor for how women view models in advertisements. These studies conclude that the higher the body satisfaction, no matter the physical weight of the person, the lower the effect that the models in the advertisements have. Those women, who have a low body satisfaction, have driven themselves to eating disorders, and who are relatively thin, still have a low body satisfaction and are affected by the models in magazines.



MTV'S Influence on American Culture

(Excerpts from Communication Theory Paper)

By Brandon Bowles



Music Television has created a way for targeted viewers to disconnect from reality, attracting its audience into a fabricated society by way of visual communication. This process includes engaging visual stimulation with aesthetic images within music videos. For the development of my research, the current study examines the marketing schema of corporate media's saturation of music television and its influence on targeted viewers of American culture. Therefore, the relationship of aesthetic energy and visual stimulation as it emotionally appeals to the targeted audience of music television is observed. The engagement of visual stimulation and imagery appeal is recognized as essential elements in confining as well as increasing the targeted viewer's consumption of music television, through the promotion of musical videos (also referenced as promo clips), considering that the targeted audience is what's arguably recognized as a television culture. This research suggests that the targeted viewers of music television are embraced within an aesthetic world, a conditioned arena of what's considered reality amongst the corporate

conglomerates and those who set the agenda for music television. Within this aesthetic realm, corporate conglomerates and those who set the agenda for music television are able to impose their perception of reality. This effectively influences the social identity and activity of targeted viewers of American culture. Included within this analysis is the influence of music television as it relates to the music industry. This research addresses the marketing scheme of processing music television, as a tele-schema. Tele-schema is the conditioning of targeted viewers from reality to a truncate world perceived as reality. The targeted viewer is saturated with images accompanied by audio. This process caters to the targeted audience member's appetite for aesthetic appeal by formatting visual stimulants within musical videos. Although tele-schema may be applied globally to any set agenda executed through television, for the purpose of this research it is observed from a music television medium, applying promotional clips as a marketing component.

My Research Conclusions

My research suggests that MTV has conditioned an arena of what's popular in American culture, such as popular-music or popular culture, engaging target viewers with corporate agendas, influencing social behavior amongst targeted viewers. USA Today previously reports, "The planets biggest TV network has a lock on the coveted demographic...The way this age group look, acts and consumes is molded by clothes, music and attitudes aired on MTV's programming and youth-slanted commercials" (Gundersen, 2001). MTV has manufactured a lucrative market in a fabricated world, in which they (corporate media) are dominant through the marketing power of music television. Music television caters to the targeted viewer's appetite for visual stimulation, satisfying their crave for imagery appeal, attempting to position the targeted audience from reality to an aesthetic world. Designed in the infrastructure of marketing music television is to deliver a preconditioned stimulated audience to its advertisers. The advertisers; however, advertise on the same music networks that provided the advertisers with precondition stimulated audience in the beginning. This research argues that a growing segment of American culture is a television culture that has been conditioned to think and act within an aesthetic world conceived as reality. This targeted culture has been, and continues to be, conditioned to surrender their active intellect and engage their emotions with the corporate agendas of MTV.



The Negative Influences of Rap Music on the American Culture

(Excerpts from Communication Theory Paper)

By Michelle Michalski

Rap Music originated in South Bronx, New York in the late 1970s with the commercial recording of the 1979 single Rappers Delight by the Sugar Hill Gang (George 16). In its infancy, rap music emerged through urban culture, almost exclusive to the African Americans. In present day rap music is a national, mass-mediated and multi-mediated product. Corporations serve as a specialized class that controls the rap music industry. An example is Viacom, controlling the television networks: MTV, BET, and VH1. With the expansion of Cable television, Viacom's third quarter revenue in 2006 increased by seven percent, or 2.66 billion (viacom.com). Chomsky argues that corporations elude public opinion with a carefully choreographed propaganda model that controls what people think, consume, and deem acceptable (Chomsky). In this paper I will argue the negative effects rap music has on the American culture, by examining the lyrics, music videos, and actions of the rap artists.

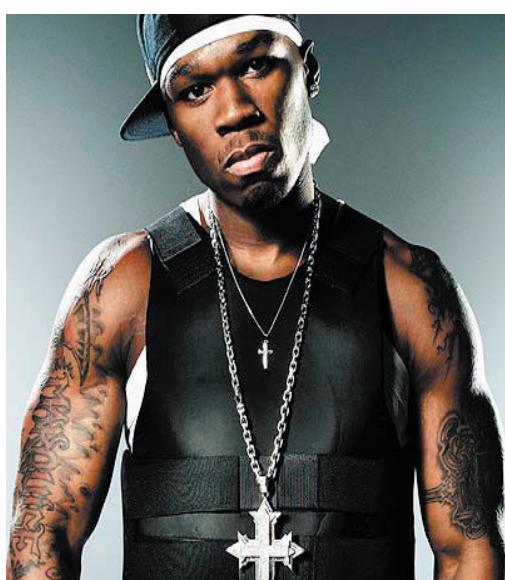
Corporations assist in conveying rap artist depictions of women, as "bitches," employed by networks. While "bitch" used to refer to someone as hateful and deceptive, now, in rap music it refers to someone as unintelligent, slothful, materialistic, and highly sexually promiscuous. In short, the rap music phenomenon has contributed to the promotion of negative stereotypes of women into the mainstream culture. The music allows artists to empower themselves over women and to define themselves, their lifestyles, and perceptions of the world however they want, according to Darren Rhym, researcher of the African American novel and Hip-Hop culture (Rhym, 2006). Rhym argues that rap artists have narcissist views of their role in contemporary culture perceiving themselves as victims of society, maintaining a position of "me against the world," characterized by mistrust and misunderstanding of their art (Rhym, 2006).

In response to structures of dominance Paulla Ebron, a professor of Cultural and Social Anthropology, argues in her book Rapping Between Men, that rap artists appear to believe that they can only make the transformation from boys to men by establishing dominance over women (24). Since they are unable to challenge the dominant white patriarchal power structure in which they live (Ebron, 1991). When young men in society experience rap artists, that they look up to, degrading women they increasingly become more desensitized to such actions. Rap artists often overlook that many listeners may emulate them.

Oprah Winfrey was recently involved in an altercation with rap artist Ludacris over his music lyrics. She commented to him, "A lot of people who listen to your music aren't as smart as you are. So they take some of that stuff literally when you are just writing it for entertainment purposes." She argues, "rappers need to hold themselves accountable for their words because they hold so much weight with young people. Hip-hop is like jazz and gospel music, evolved from the people, a form of protest, a form of expression, so you can't deny that, nor would I try," she said. "But I do believe there needs to be awareness of who we are, how we got here and what that means about staying here." (Ivy, 2006).

A second outlet, employed by rap artists, to influence American Culture is music videos in which are viewed on TV channels, such as MTV and BET. According to Robert Durant in his content analysis, sexual themes and content constitute more of a major part in rap videos than any other music genre. Most rap videos depict women wearing little to nothing. In Sisqo's video for the Thong Song, he was on a beach filled with women dancing in provocative bathing suits. A common reoccurring theme in rap videos is to have as many women as possible dancing on or around the rapper in as little clothing as possible. Through these videos the "American public projects the images that rappers adopt back onto black urban adolescents and young adults" (Watkins, 1998)

My paper examines the theories written by Noam Chomsky and Douglas Rushkoff. Chomsky in his book Media Control which discusses how corporations, such as Viacom, are in control of what we as a public get to consume. He defines manufacturing consent as "bringing about agreement on the part of the public for things that they didn't want by the new techniques of propaganda" (Chomsky, 2002). It is deemed acceptable for big corporations to produce these CD's with misogynist lyrics because they make money. If something makes money then it becomes acceptable. "Common interests elude public opinion entirely and can only be understood and managed by a "specialized class" who are smart enough to figure things out (Chomsky, 2002). Chomsky defines the "specialized class" as a certain group of people who analyze, execute, make decisions, and run things in political, economic, and ideological systems (Chomsky, 2002). These people consequently decide then what is admissible and what is not. Taking this further corporations then sell what they decide on as admissible, to the public, and that leads to its acceptance by the consumers. Chomsky states in his book that there are two classes of people: the specialized class and what is known as the bewildered herd, the 80% of society that is not involved in making decisions (Chomsky, 2002). In dealing with rap music this "specialized class" sells misogynist music to the "bewildered herd" through a feedback loop in an attempt to keep them unintelligent and consuming whatever is distributed to the public.



To the Max.... imum

Former Student and Talon Editor in Chief, Max Thompson has made the jump to the Big Leagues having experienced his first publication in a national magazine - ESPN: The Magazine. You can view his work in the "Jump Section" of the February Issues of the magazine on news stands now. Max attributes this milestone to the "push" he received while a student.



this spring. Some students mock the sport as pure geek, but Benope believes that in time it will lose its stigma: "In the '70s, only the nerdy kids were into Ultimate Frisbee. Now they have national competitions." In other words, your tickets to the 2020 Olympics just might be delivered by an owl.

-PAUL KIX

w2w4 WHAT TO WATCH FOR

WEDNESDAY JAN 17

WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES BEGIN: TORINO, ITALY

It's like the Olympics, but with a collegiate twist. Bode Miller's salivating at the thought.

SUNDAY JAN 21

U.S. FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS: SPOKANE, WASH.

Bulldogs point guard Derek Raivio mulls competing, to test the theory that Gonzaga does not lose in Spokane.

WEDNESDAY JAN 24

NHL ALL-STAR GAME: DALLAS

Buffalo's Ryan Miller to start between the pipes for the East. Because Dallas has truly embodies the spirit of outdoor athletics. And the one place that actually has snow.

THURSDAY JAN 25

WINTER X GAMES, OPENING DAY: ASPEN

Winter X kicks off in Colorado, the one place that truly embodies the spirit of outdoor athletics. And the one place that actually has snow.



MAKING THE GRADE

Prepping for your 10-year WNBA keeper draft? Add 5'6". Julia Wood of North Littleborough, Mass., is on the list. The varsity guard's 7.7 ppg may not impress—but the fact that

she's in sixth grade ought to. Her maturity on the court stands out," says Fenton Regional Charter School coach Bob Hickey. He gave the 11-year-old Wood, who shined

at UConn's summer hoops camp, a spot after a convincing high school tryout. Her parents are thrilled, but grounded. "We just want her to do her best," says dad Michael.

So Julia also plays soccer, runs track and dabbles in lacrosse. None of those teams is varsity—but there's always seventh grade.

-MAX THOMPSON

ALL NEWS >> Aussie pair attempting to kayak 1,370 miles across Tasman Sea ... New York filmmaker contacts Boise State for rights to Fiesta Bowl story ...

Heartland Scholarship Opportunity

The Kansas City Heartland Roundtable is the greater Kansas City CSCMP

organization and offers a number of \$1000 scholarships each year. The

scholarships are intended for students attending a college or university in the Kansas City region who have an interest in the areas of supply chain management or logistics. Complete applications should e-mailed to the CSCMP at canan@ku.edu as an attachment by February 15, 2007.

In addition to scholarships, the Heartland Roundtable CSCMP sends two

Kansas City area college or university students to the CSCMP national

conference each October. The attendees for the 2007 CSCMP conference

will also be chosen from those who apply for the scholarship (see www.cscmp.org for conference information).



Student Scholar Day!

Undergraduate and Graduate students present papers or projects that represent outstanding scholarship in their major.

Monday, April 2, 2007

Whitfield Centre and the Library

All campus community members are invited to attend any or all of the Scholar Day presentations which will be in Whitfield in the morning and poster sessions in the Library starting at noon.

feature

Although Avila is a Catholic University, it by no means forces the religion onto its students. Currently, only twenty-six percent of students at Avila are Catholic.

"We are not closed to people with other religious affiliation, but we want to celebrate the Catholic religion," said Dr. Slepitza. "We also want students to grow in their faith while at Avila, even if they may not be Catholic."

The only requirement Avila has that deals with religion, are the number of religious classes each student must complete before graduation. Even so, these classes focus more on the history of religion and the different religions rather than the Catholic religion.

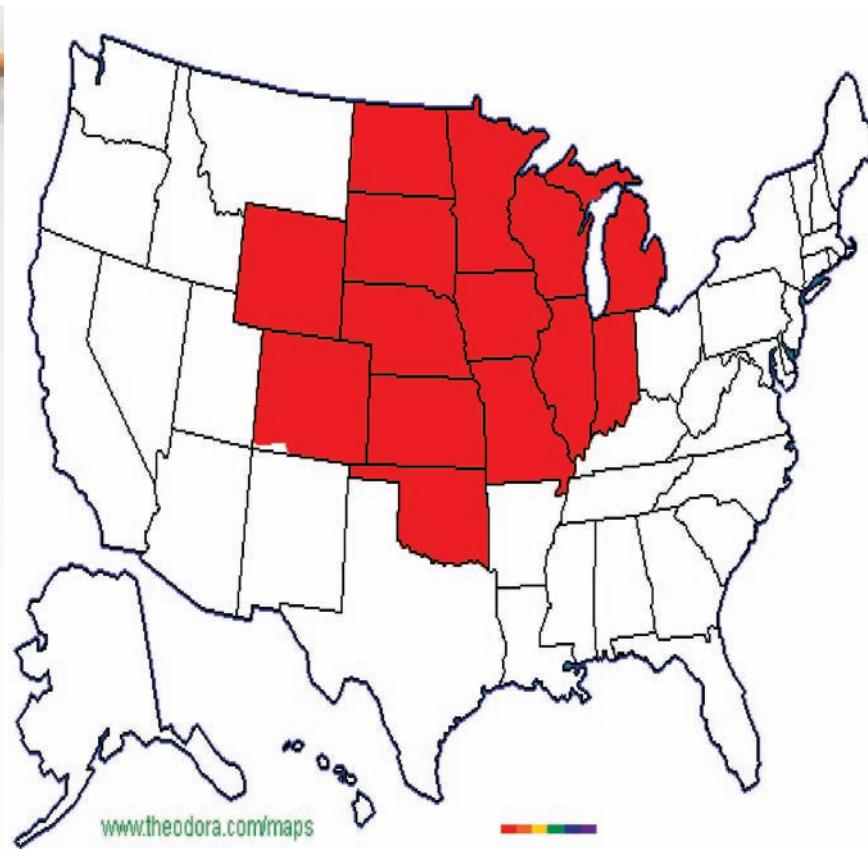
Following these recruiting strategies will hopefully increase enrollment over time. The stronger emphasis the University has in these areas will truly set the University apart from others.

"For a University to be successful, it must be distinctive," said Dr. Slepitza.

Head men and women's soccer coach, Paul McNally, has been following this recruiting philosophy since he came to Avila two years ago.

"Recruiting within the Catholic religion establishes a relationship with the recruit and the coach or admissions advisor doing the recruiting," said McNally. "It makes the process much easier."

Other head coaches have also put this strategy into motion.



Bruce Young, head football coach, had only good things to say about the change.

"It's already had an impact and had a good response," said Young.

The football team has had many athletes from states outside the Midwest in the past and the coaches plan to continue to recruit from these states.

"We'll continue to recruit in Florida just because of sheer numbers," said Young. "But we have also started recruiting in Catholic high schools in Iowa, Kansas and Oklahoma."

The ultimate hope is to create relationships in areas of the Midwest, but still maintain diversity in the students getting recruited.

"Diversity is a gift, we're not going to run from it," said Slepitza. The recruiting process is just one more way to help Avila find its niche.

holiday

Who is St. Valentine? The Patron Saint of Lovers

By Megan Carnes

Each year 1 billion Valentines Cards and 50 millions roses are sent on February 14th on what we have learned to call Valentines Day, this holiday has become a day to send tokens of love to spouses, girlfriends, boyfriends, family members and even friends. WE do this routinely each year but has anyone stopped to think how this holiday originated?

This holiday developed from both Christian and ancient Rome tradition. Today the Catholic Church recognizes three different saints named Valentine, all of which were believed to be martyred. Besides these three saints, the holiday is also believed to originate from the celebration of Lupercalia, a Pagan festival and the day birds/fowl select their mate.

One legend states that Valentine was a priest that lived during the third century in Rome. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families; he outlawed marriages for young men. Valentine believed this to be unjust, defying Claudius and continued to marry young lovers in secret. When Claudius discovered Valentine's actions he ordered him to be put to death. This leads some to believe Valentine's Day is to honor the anniversary of his death or burial.

Other legends lead some to believe Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons. The last story tells that Valentine sent the first "valentine" while he was in prison. It is believed he fell in love with a young girl, possibly his jailors daughter, and before his death, he supposedly wrote her a letter, which he signed "From your Valentine." This expression has stuck throughout history and is still in use today.

Even though the holiday is mainly associated with love, cupid, hearts and flowers it is more plausible that originally the focus was not on Eros (passionate love) but Agape (Christian love) the third story seems to tell one of passionate love, but the others lead many to believe St. Valentine was martyred for deviance and refusing to renounce his religion.

No matter what legend is followed Valentine's Day will continue to be a holiday full of reds and pinks and flowers and chocolates. Now instead of picking a Valentine just because the date is February 14th, there will be purpose behind the holiday. A day we can honor those martyred because of their passions for love and passion for Christianity.



Your Best and Worst Valentine's Day Memories

Amanda Jordan

Best memory: "My Senior year of high school my boyfriend asked me out. We have been together for four years."

Kayleigh White

Best memory: "Last year I lived with four guys and they all got me something. So I had four Valentine's Days."

Ashley Ford

Best memory: "Last year I spent Valentine's Day with my friends and we just went shopping and to dinner."

Ralph McCoy

Worst memory: "Last year I had a date at an extravagant restaurant and I forgot my wallet. She had to pay for everything."

Ashley Ratliff

Worst memory: "Never had a date."

Jennifer Barr

Best memory: "I got roses, a little teddy bear, and candy."



arts & entertainment

Students & Faculty Go To Prison

Incites by Christopher Williams

Theatre production students, and faculty involved in 'Dead Man Walking' paid a visit to the Kansas State Penitentiary in Lancing, KS on [date] to prepare for their roles in the production. My curiosity sent me directly to Charlene Gould's office to get the scoop.

I knocked on the door, introduced myself, and explained, "I heard something about Avila students going to prison...is that right? What's that all about?" She smiled. I accepted the invitation to take a seat and tried my best to scribble her inspired words down. I couldn't keep up...she was fanatical! My first interview with Dean Gould almost didn't happen because I knocked over a light, which landed on a seat cushion, created a lot of smoke, and almost burned the theatre down. We got started and I found out that she was the director of the play.

"Tim Robbins wrote a play and said what he'd like to do is have us do a project, not just a play, but a project. We bring in other disciplines to stir up the ground talking about the death penalty.

"We were able to go to...the Kansas state penitentiary in Lansing and it was hardcore enough for me. We got into the maximum security tiers, the yard. Our tour...they let us mingle with the prisoners, talk with the guards, talk with the counselors, to get a real feel of what it's like."

I want that screen, that film, to interact with the students, the actors on stage. And I want it almost to become a constant reminder of the crime, or the constant reminder where you stand on the death penalty issue. It's simultaneous staging. It's a very complex staging because you'll have several things going on at stage, plus the screen with the film, and the lights, and the sound, and all of this because I think it mirrors the complexity of capital punishment."

And the winner is...

Yep! It's that time of year again. The most popular man in the world is about to be handed out once again to those who are deserving. The nominees are out for the 2007 Oscars. First up, Best actor. Will it be:

Leonardo DiCaprio for *Blood Diamond*

Ryan Gosling for *Half Nelson*

Peter O'Toole for *Venus*

Will Smith for *The Pursuit of Happyness* or Forest Whitaker for *The Last King of Scotland*?

To be honest, the only movie in this category that I have seen was *Blood Diamond*. I do think Leo's performance was well worth an Oscar, but many people are pulling for Will Smith.

For the best actress in a leading role the nominees are:

Penelope Cruz for *Volver*

Judi Dench for *Notes on a Scandal*

Helen Mirren for *The Queen*

Meryl Streep for *The Devil Wears Prada* and

Kate Winslet for *Little Children*

But the most exciting category for me will be best director. I think the deserving film here is *The Departed* directed by Martin Scorsese. This film was outstanding. I am a little disappointed that Jack Nicholson was not in the best actor category for this film. But *The Departed* is up for a total of five nominations including best director, best performance by an actor in a supporting role (Mark Wahlberg), achievement in film editing, best motion picture of the year, and adapted screenplay.

Whichever category is your favorite the show looks to be promising. Who will take home the small golden statue? Watch the show on February 25, 2007 for all of the winners.

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commentary

She said / He said : Affirmative Action

By Caitlin Stephenson

As a result of the civil rights movement three decades ago, programs like affirmative action were put into place as an attempt to redress our nation's long history of racial and sexual discrimination. Affirmative action calls for minorities and women to receive special consideration in employment and education.

The typical arguments against affirmative action today include claims that it is reverse discrimination or that it is no longer needed. Many people claim that affirmative action has robbed them of promotions and other opportunities. In my experience, most of the people who make this argument are—surprise, surprise—white men. I can't help but laugh when I hear this. Affirmative action does not guarantee a minority or a woman anything. It merely recognizes biases and attempts to correct them.

What is more appalling is when people assert that affirmative action is no longer needed. The fact is that women and minorities still hold vastly lower paying jobs and face active discrimination in job advancement. One example of this is that women earn 75 cents for every dollar that men make. This alone shows that the playing field is not even.

The purpose of programs like affirmative action is to correct wrongs so that these programs are no longer needed. But we aren't there yet. As Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said in 2003, "We expect that 25 years from now, the use of racial preferences will no longer be necessary to further the interest approved today." Hopefully one day affirmative action will be a thing of the past and the playing field will truly be even.



By Josh Nolan

Affirmative action is a policy that seeks to redress past discrimination through active measures to ensure equal opportunity, as in education and employment. Current affirmative action policies are directed mainly at African Americans for the sole purpose of helping this minority group to gain a better footing within the rich, white male dominated society.

Poverty, misfortune, and helplessness show no mercy in regards to ethnicity. One can be a poor Caucasian, African American, Asian, or Hispanic; however, one can also be a rich member of any of the above mentioned groups. To make a blanket legislative decision that would affect a single group would be saying that all members in this particular group are misfortunate and need help in order to gain entrance into America's top working positions. However, it would be ridiculous to say that Condoleezza Rice or Colin Powell need affirmative action or that they were not qualified for their particular positions and were only placed there because of their race. Thus to say that affirmative action should be legislated would be tantamount to saying that certain minority groups are always unqualified and unsuccessful while other groups are always qualified and successful. However, simple logic and common sense dictates that there are members of every

single race that need help in order to gain admittance into the social elite. Thus if one is truly ardent about the creation of a colorblind society, class, not race, should be the pivoting point of affirmative action policies.

However, affirmative action was never intended to truly create a colorblind society as some scholars might suggest. I am of the opinion that affirmative action was created to help those races (particularly African American) that were misfortunate. Thus in order for affirmative action to even work, one must base their decision on race, when in a colorblind society, race should not matter.

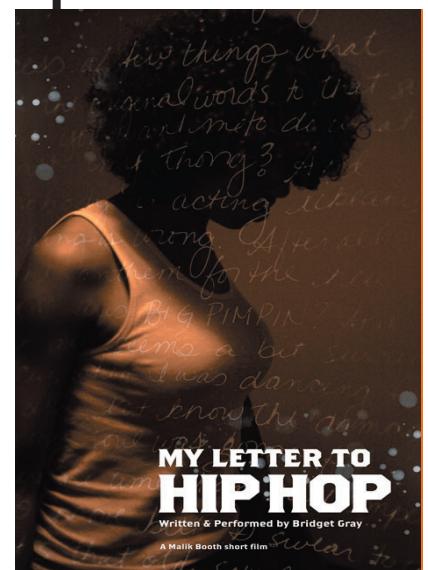
In the end, I am simply saying that affirmative action is not effective in creating a colorblind society nor is current affirmative action policies a good way to level the playing field.

No Gray Clouds, Just a Pure Silver Lining

A Bridget Gray Review by Brittany Rose

When I began seeing posters that poet Bridget Gray was coming to Avila I didn't know what to expect. I was nervous that it would be some dark, depressing, boring, mess that some eccentric woman called poetry, but it was the complete opposite. Bridget was amazing, she put all of her thoughts, insecurities, and emotions out for our small audience (less than 20 and nearly ½ of them students) to look at and dissect. I admired her courage and confidence, and it has inspired me to have some courage of my own.

Bridget's performance wasn't just her sitting on a stool reading from a notebook, it was dramatic and entertaining, the way she interwove stories from her life and her poetry, you could tell this was something that was never repeated – and was made custom tailored for the audience. It was like she was having a conversation with her audience one on one without us saying anything. She truly felt our vibe and captured our aura. Honestly, nothing I could say about Bridget or her performance can do it justice, it was moving, inspiring, emotional, and breath taking. Sorry so many of Avila's students missed it. But, all is not lost. You can listen to her spoken word on her myspace page at Myspace.com/BridgetGraymusic and buy her CD at Cdbaby.com. My copy has been ordered, it's a keeper.



commentary

Shades of Grey

By The Talon

Controversy continues to swirl around the hit drama, "Grey's Anatomy." On October 9th, Isaiah Washington called co-worker T.R. Knight a derogatory term for homosexuals on the set of the show. Washington then issued a public apology. The issue died down, and it was supposedly water under the bridge. This was until the Golden Globes, when Washington decided to bring up the issue once more.

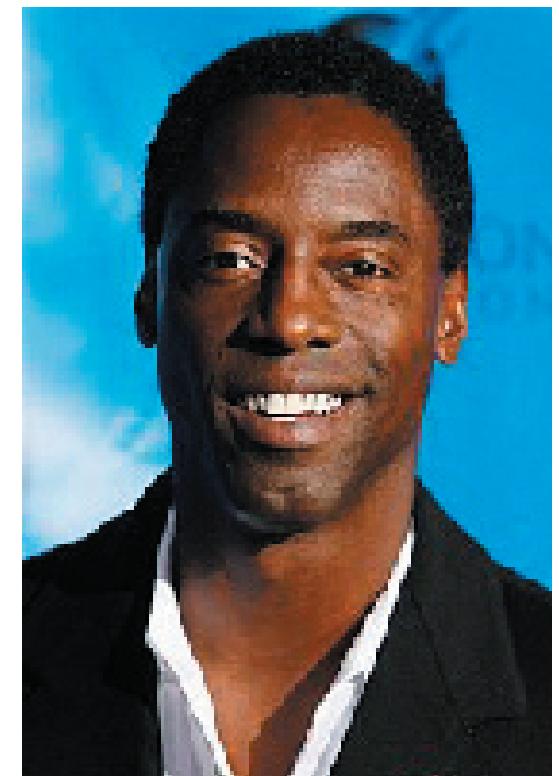
Washington again issued a formal apology to the gay and lesbian community, etc, and said he had "Marred what would have been a perfect night for the show." Washington has both denied the alleged statement and publicly apologized. So which is it? It has become clear that he did indeed make the remark.

ABC thought the argument was resolved back in October and co-star Katherine Heigl believed it was unnecessary to say the word again. T.R. Knight had not come out publicly, but felt forced to after the events that took place. ABC arranged a meeting between leaders of Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation and Washington. Washington expressed interest in working with GLAAD to educate young people about the negative impact of name calling and bullying. Washington is currently seeking counseling to better understand his own feelings regarding the demeaning situation.

The current debate is over the appropriate action that should take place in regards to Isaiah Washington. Should ABC fire him? Should Isaiah be fined, or should the situation just be dropped? Third year student Amanda Murphy believes that "If he is not a good person to work with, then I don't see anything wrong with firing him. He's a grown man and has opinions, but he needs to respect other people's beliefs." Other students tended to disagree with this view.

Emily Hoskins stated, "It's very unfortunate that something of this nature happened to such a successful show. I don't think he should be fired, but he should be extremely penalized." Other fans agreed. "I don't think it's that big of a deal. They would lose ratings if they fired him because he is a main character," says Chadd Rivera. Erin Miller said "Fans would see this as too extreme of an action."

We will see what course of action will be taken over the next couple of weeks. Avila students seem reluctant to let go of Dr. Burke. "The show would be ruined. This situation has been blown way out of proportion. It was a rude comment; get over it," according to Lauren McCarthy. Perhaps Isaiah Washington should abide by the old adage, if you can't say anything nice...don't say anything at all.



"Reality" Takes Over TV

By Emily Hoskins



Reality television. Some people love it, some people hate it, and some people simply think that these shows are a waste of time, space, energy, and breath and that any body involved with one should leave the television set completely and never return. So, in reality, in this case a fake reality, they should spare the rest of us from another "unscripted" masterpiece. Reality television is a genre of programming which presents supposedly unscripted dramatic or humorous situations, documents actual events, and features ordinary people instead of professional actors. It's a pretty sweet deal for all of the T.V. networks out there. Really, all they have to do is come up with a "winning" scenario and hire ordinary brainless people who often wonder what life would be like if they'd had enough oxygen at birth.

The types of reality shows are endless, such as dating shows, special living environment (The Real World), celebrity environment, self-improvement/makeover, job searches and many more. But lately there have been some select few that are on the rise and are miraculously entertaining a good portion of T.V. viewers. There is the VH1's I Love New York show, a spin off of the well put together and extremely intelligent show called the Flavor of Love. VH1 set a record as 4.43 million people watched its premiere. One does not know about other viewers, but some may feel after viewing a Flavor of Love episode that they are now less intelligent than they were before they decided to spend precious time out of their life that they will never get back. Other people are just simply overwhelmed with all of the different types of shows. Ricky Johnson, sophomore, said that "I don't really watch any of them because there are so many." This is very true.

Then, there is a date show on ABC called The Bachelor where an eligible male gets to date twelve women simultaneously to try and find the lucky lady that he will spend the rest of his 'real' life with. A favorite part one might have is after talking to the bachelor for approximately fifteen minutes, one of the beautiful/psycho women is not given a rose and starts to break down on camera. One can really find true joy in another's sorrow when they say things like, "I was falling for him and I really loved him," or, "I know there was a connection so I have no idea why he didn't pick me!" Keep in mind when they are saying these things that they are sobbing hysterically. Tough luck ladies, but a quick trip to the psycho ward will cure your crush and you'll be ready to return to the real world in no time. Kate McClung, senior, says that, "I think they are horrible but I love them. It's one of my guilty pleasures." There are some shows that have faced speculation that the participants themselves are involved in fakery, acting out storylines that were planned in advance by producers. So when they are talking about an MTV show called The Hills, are they really claiming that there is actual acting going on? Well, they are definitely right, there is no question about it that Lauren Conrad is the next Hilary Swank. As far as the top shows on DVD that have sold on Amazon.com they are: Laguna Beach, The Amazing Race, Project Runway, and America's Next Top Model. Don't everybody rush to purchase them at once. So is reality T.V. taking over the television time slots? The only thing that is really keeping that from happening is that dramas are just as popular so networks are not about to bet against them. But really unfortunately, if you are not a big fan of reality shows you can sell or smash your television with a fat hammer because it looks like networks will keep coming up with anything and everything that might scream "hit show", until they run out of lame ideas.

sports

Player Profile: James Deng

By John De Roo

Avila University Men's Basketball player James Deng has had quite the journey to get to where he is today. Deng is from Malaukon, Sudan and is one of the "Lost Boys." Deng recently told me about his experience getting to the United States. "I was in a refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya. The Lost boys program came out in 1999 and I came to the US on September 4th, 2001, one week before 9/11" he says.

When James came to the U.S., he arrived in San Diego where he attended Grossmont Community College. When asked how well he adjusted to American life, Deng says it was a "very hard experience to adjust to life in the USA. I had to learn how to drive and adjust to U.S. life." James said he had to become a truck driver while he attended college to pay the bills and drove 18 -wheeler trucks. "I only worked three days a week so I could go to school" he said.

James played basketball at Grossmont with current Avila player Troy Valencia. When Head Men's Coach Anthony Hall came to San Diego to recruit Troy, he found out about Deng and got both of them to come to Avila. "My teammates are friendly and I'm just learning well" Deng says. Certainly James Deng has traveled a long and challenging road to play basketball at Avila University. His work ethic and determination will be an asset to this institution for many years to come.

James Deng Fun Facts

Height: 6'7

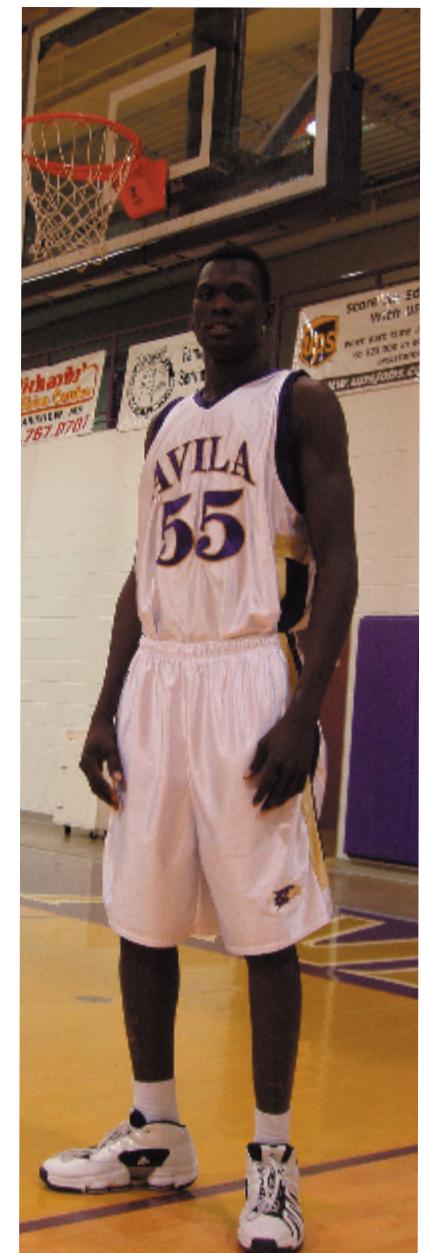
Major: Business

Resided in KC: 6 months

Job after graduation: Businessman

Favorite Movie: The Air Up There

Favorite Food: Rice



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TIMES: Afternoons and early evenings

LOCATION: Hodes Center

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Questions? Call Avila's **CAREER center** at 816-501-3676.

ATTENTION: EDUCATION STUDENTS

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YOU MUST ATTEND THE

INTERNSHIP MANDATORY MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2007
BAREFOOT CONFERENCE ROOM
(MARIAN CENTER)
FROM 4:30 P.M. UNTIL 5:30 P.M.

Avila Cheer Turns Down Nationals

By Kayle Walker

Avila cheerleading and dance teams are not obligated to compete at nationals, and this year the Avila Cheer team decided not to compete. The team took a vote on if they should attend the event and the majority of the girls did not want to go.

"At the time it wasn't the best decision for the team to go," said Lauren Fulks, first year.

The team qualified with a video of skills and was invited to attend the UCA Nationals. The competition was January 14-17, 2007 at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Time restraints were also obstacles the cheerleaders faced. "Conflicting schedules with the team members and coaches really made it difficult to prepare," said Samantha Poholsky, first year.

The Avila cheer squad is under new head coach Brittany Stewart, former Avila cheerleader and first time collegiate head coach. "This is just another stepping stone Avila cheer has to go through to get to the next level," Stewart said. "Our ultimate goal is a national championship."



Glitter Girls Find Success Once Again

By The Talon



With the youngest dance team Cindy Freeman has coached at Avila University, the girls received a sixth place overall finish at the National competition. This year's Glitter Girls are a contrast to years past. They are more technically talented, and were already prepared for a higher level of competition at the beginning of the season. "We are so close to each other and we just feel like a team," says Charla Butler.

To us outsiders, sixth place seems like a pretty respectable achievement at the National level. The truth is that these girls scored their highest rating thus far in the history of the dance program, yet the level of competition has become that much more elite since the 2004-2005 team won the National title.

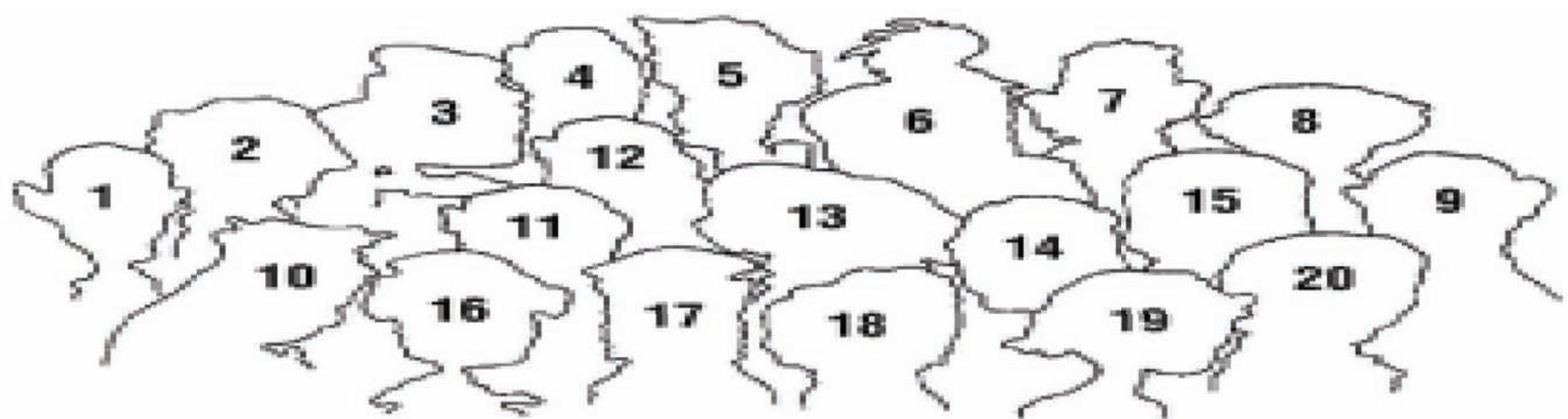
According to second-year member Sarah Belto, "We pretty much had the routine down going into Nationals, but we needed the final energy and passion." Apparently the girls did just that. Coach Freeman said, "When the girls danced jazz in the finals, everything came together and the energy level was incredible. Certain sections just exploded off the floor." Charla added, "When we watched the playback, we were so ecstatic that didn't care how well we did."

Besides supporting the remainder of the girls' and guys' basketball season, the dance team has the Conference competition to look forward to. More importantly, Avila will be hosting the event on February 10. Charla Butler says, "We probably won't change our routine at all from Nationals...we were that happy. I think we will hold our own and do all right."

The Glitter Girls would like to encourage everyone to come watch the competition in the Mabee Fieldhouse. Coach Freeman says it will be really entertaining and the girls could use the local support. Plus, college students get in free with an I.D. Come on out and support our Glitter Girls while they attempt to win the Conference title!



ILLUSTRATIONS BY RON CODDINGTON/MCT



How Well Do you know your African-American history?

In recognition of African-American History Month, the Talon will provide a 1GB flashdrive to the first person to send in the correct names of the 20 caricatures pictured above. These powerful figures have become famous and now it's your turn to test your knowledge. Please e-mail your answers to stephenson1775@avila.edu. In the event that no one gets all correct, the award will be made to the earliest response with the highest number of correct responses.